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MARCH 14 1979

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter, along with my interim reply of February 28, completes the Department's response to your letter of February 2. The answers to your questions, information, and enclosures follow the order and format used in your letter.

(1) At Tab A are the statements you requested. To the best of our knowledge you now have the statements of everyone currently at the Embassy in Georgetown who had contact with the People's Temple. Your staff investigators have already met with Department personnel who had contact with the People's Temple.

(2) The material at Tab B contains guidelines issued by the Department and the Office of Management and Budget for implementation of the Privacy Act. In this connection included at Tab C is a compilation of Privacy Act requests received by the Department from the People's Temple. You will note that the Department received twenty-six such requests. The material at Tab C also contains an explanation of how these requests were processed.

Regarding your request for information on whether the Department believed the Privacy Act applied to minors, we have followed the guidelines issued on July 9, 1975 and supplemented on November 21, 1975 by the Office of Management and Budget. These guidelines state in part: "It should be noted that this provision is discretionary and that individuals who are minors are authorized to exercise the rights given to them by the Privacy Act or, in the alternative, their parents or those acting in loco parentis may

The Honorable
Clement J. Zablocki, Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives.

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EXCEPTIONS

exercise them in their behalf. This is not intended to suggest that minors are precluded from exercising rights on their own behalf. Except as otherwise provided the Act (e.g., general or specific exemptions) a minor does have the right of access to a record pertaining to him or herself (40 Federal Register 28970, as supplemented).

(3) The Department has not been able to locate any record of passport issuance to Dana Griffith. Our Embassy at Georgetown has also reported that Guyanese immigration authorities could find no record of entry for Dana Griffith, although their immigration records did show that other Griffith family members arrived in Guyana on August 11, 1977. As I mentioned in my previous letter to you of February 28, there is currently no method by which we can determine when Ms. Griffith departed the United States.

(4) As of November 14, 1978 the Department understood that the People's Temple occupied Jonestown and the surrounding agricultural lands under a lease agreement with the Government of Guyana. This understanding was provided by Guyanese officials to our Embassy in Georgetown. Although the Department was not aware of the precise details of the lease, we were informed that it granted the People's Temple the right to occupy a large tract of land in the Northwest District of Guyana. The Temple, in return, was obligated to clear specified portions of the land and to develop it for agricultural use. The Temple's rights, in a general sense, were understood to be those of any other lessee. Accordingly, the Guyanese Government stated that the Temple had the right to exclude from the lease-hold persons or groups attempting to enter without its permission.

A copy of a specimen lease, found in the files of the Temple at Jonestown, is enclosed at Tab D. We are attempting to obtain a copy of the specific lease from the Government of Guyana.

(5) Our Embassy reports that, to the best of its knowledge, of the 803 passports turned over by the Guyanese Police only two were British Honduran (Belizean) and one British.

(6) Attached at Tab E is a complete and detailed report of Freedom of Information Act requests filed with the Department of State between 1974 and November 18, 1978 relating to the People's Temple.

(7) The following information has been developed about Jim Jones' foreign travel since my last letter. Our Embassy has informed us that it had heard rumors that Jim Jones may have visited Cuba in October, 1976. However, we have reviewed the three Jones passports in our possession, and they do not contain any Cuban entry or exit stamps. This is not surprising since in 1976 a U.S. passport could not be used for travel to Cuba. The passports do show numerous visits to Guyana between August, 1974 and July 16, 1977, a 9-day stay in the United Kingdom from August 28 to September 6, 1974, and a 3-day stop in Grenada from May 5 to May 7, 1977. One of Jones' passports also has Kenyan, Zambian, and Tanzanian visas issued in 1973, but there is no evidence to show he ever visited those countries.

(8) (a.) The Office of Munitions Control in the Department received the Customs Service report of investigation on September 1, 1977 and forwarded a copy to the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs on September 6, 1977. The Bureau made no further distribution within the Department or to our Embassy in Georgetown. Mr. Clyde G. Bryant, Jr. of the Office of Munitions Control recalled that he was informed by the U.S. Customs Service by telephone around September, 1977 that a search of household effects being exported through Miami and belonging to members of the People's Temple had failed to uncover any firearms. Since there was no evidence of a violation of Section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22USC 2778), no further action by the Office of Munitions Control was taken.

(b.) The Department was aware that the Customs Service report was being forwarded to INTERPOL. However, neither the Department nor our Embassy in Georgetown was informed by either the U.S. Customs Service or the Guyanese Government of any subsequent INTERPOL action relative to the report. Our former Consul in Georgetown was aware that the Guyanese Customs Service had closely inspected some shipments destined for the People's Temple, but he was never told that this inspection was a result of a request by INTERPOL.

(9) A detailed recapitulation of the events of November 18 follows. The recapitulation begins at the time the Embassy learned of the shooting at the Port Kaituma airstrip. It includes information on the movement of the Guyana Airways' twin otter that was sent to pick up the Congressional party at Port Kaituma.

Guyana Airways Corporation (GAC) records show that the GAC twin otter left Georgetown's Timehri airport at 1552 hours November 18 and arrived at Port Kaituma at 1647 hours local time. The single engine Cessna arrived in Port Kaituma at the same time. The attack on the Congressional party took place approximately a half hour later.

At approximately 1800 hours, Prime Minister Forbes Burnham telephoned the Ambassador and requested that the Ambassador come immediately to the Prime Minister's Georgetown residence. At approximately 1815 hours, Embassy Second Secretary Joseph Hartman, who earlier in the day had helped to arrange the charter of the Cessna, was telephoned by a representative of the owner of the aircraft who informed Mr. Hartman that he had heard from a civil aviation official that there had been a shooting incident at the Port Kaituma airstrip.

Mr. Hartman immediately called Consul Douglas Ellice. He then went to Mr. Ellice's house, approximately 150 yards from his own. He informed Mr. Ellice of the telephone call he had received from the owner

of the Cessna. Mr. Ellice immediately telephoned the Ambassador, but the Ambassador had already left to go to the Prime Minister's residence. Second Secretary Peter Londono was at Timehri Airport together with DEA Staff Member James Scholleart to meet the delegation upon its return from Port Kaituma. He was informed by the airport authorities at approximately 6:15 PM that a shooting had occurred at Port Kaituma and that the Ambassador was at that moment on his way to meet with the Prime Minister.

After receiving an initial briefing from the Prime Minister on the shooting at Port Kaituma as well as on what the Government of Guyana (GOG) planned to do to get security forces into the area, the Ambassador went directly to the Chancery, arriving at 7:55 PM according to the log book of the Marine Security Guard, and dictated 78 Georgetown 3774 which was sent at 2030 hours local time (6:30 Washington time). The Ambassador also placed an overseas call to Ashley Hewitt, the Director of the Office of Caribbean Affairs. The call could not be completed immediately. Therefore, when the Ambassador left the Chancery to return to the Prime Minister's residence at 8:30 PM, he instructed his Secretary to read the text of his message to Hewitt when the call went through. This was done at approximately 8:40 PM.

(10) In addition to the visitors cited in the Jonestown guest book already provided to the committee, the following individuals are known also to have visited Jonestown: GOG Chief Medical Officer; GOG Minister of Foreign Affairs Fred Wills and Minister of Education Vincent Teekah; GOG Northwest Regional Development Officer; British High Commissioner Peter Gautrey; Chancellor of the University of Guyana; GOG Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works; GOG Assistant Director-General of National Service; GOG Northwest Regional Minister; a Dr. Albert Greenfield; Attorney Charles Garry; Guyanese Dental Surgeon Dr. Ng-A-Fook; the Reverend and Mrs. John Moore (whose two daughters perished on November 18 at Jonestown); GOG Permanent

Representative to the UN Rashleigh Jackson (before his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs).

(11) The Department's information concerning the number of weapons found by the Guyanese Police was supplied by the FBI Legal Attache on temporary duty in Georgetown. The Attache was informed by the Guyanese Police that thirty-two weapons, including one signal flare pistol, were recovered by the Police at Jonestown. Together with the pistol allegedly taken from Lawrence Layton by Dale Parks at Port Kaituma on November 18, this makes a total of thirty-three weapons. In addition, two weapons were seized by the Police in Port Kaituma from Tim and Michael Carter and Michael Prokos. This makes a total of thirty-five weapons taken from People's Temple members. Guyanese police officials have informed our Embassy that they have no knowledge of any other weapons at Jonestown.

I hope this information meets your requirements. I assure you that the Department will continue to assist in every way possible your inquiry into the tragic events that occurred last November.

Enclosures:

As stated above.

Sincerely,

/S/

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Drafted: ARA/CAR:R A McCoy:fbl
3/13/79 ext. 23449
FADRC # 19-2185

Clearances: ARA/CAR:A Hewitt (Substance)
ARA:B Grove (Draft)
L/ARA:TFortune (DRAFT)
H:E Taylor
PM/MC:CBryant, Jr. (Question 8-Substance)
C:MNimetz (Draft)
ARA:JABushnell (Draft)